

**KENTUCKY WATER UTILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
HYBRID VIDEO TELECONFERENCE
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 6, 2024, 10:00 AM EDT
300 SOWER BLVD, FRANKFORT, KY 40601**

MINUTES

Members Present (In-person): KYDOW Director Sarah Gaddis, KYDOW Assistant Director John Webb, Kimberly Padgett (RCAP), Roy Gray (RCAP), Doug Kimbler (BGMU), Brian Bingham (Louisville MSD), Richard Harris (NKWD), Kyle Boyle (NKWD), Russ Rose (OCWD), Scott Young (KRWA), Arianna Lageman (KRWA), Valerie Lucas (CWP-KT), Brad Montgomery (ACEC-KY), Maggie Neal (RCAP), Brittany Ditmer (KRWA), Scot Treece (LaGrange Utilities), Russell Neal (proxy for Sandy Williams – KIA), Joe Pavoni (BGMU), Chloe Brantley (KRWA), Donna McNeil (KWRI), and Pete Goodman (Louisville Water).

Also Present: KYDOW Branch Managers, staff, and approximately 46 virtual attendees.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:10 a.m. EDT.

I. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Director Gaddis called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests.

II. Approval of September 2024's Minutes

Director Gaddis asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes from the September 2024 meeting. Motion was made by Donna McNeil, seconded by Valerie Lucas, and all voted in favor by voice vote.

III. Committee Reorganization and Subcommittees

Director Gaddis explained her vision for the reorganization of the Kentucky Water Utilities Advisory Council (KWUAC), formerly the Drinking Water and Clean Water Workgroup.

A. KWUAC Membership and B. Subcommittees Membership

Director Gaddis presented a draft list of the KWUAC Core Committee and its subcommittees and workgroups and asked for members who wish to participate on the various committees, subcommittees, and workgroups to let her know or to contact Administrative Specialist Senior John Carlton. She asked that members take the lists back to their organizations for review and provide suggestions to Mr. Carlton. It was noted that the PFAS Subcommittee was missing from the list and would be added back. Ms. Gaddis stated she intended the committees to have well-distributed representation of all sizes of DW and WW distribution, treatment, and utility systems as well as the various regions across the state. She asked that all committee, subcommittees, and workgroups conduct all meetings in hybrid format to ensure that distance is not a barrier to participation for any member. Proxies will be allowed when designated members are unable to attend.

C. Ad hoc Asset Management Workgroup for pending assignment (possible Legislative Report for March-December 2025)

Director Gaddis stated she would like to put together an ad hoc Asset Management Workgroup for a possible legislative report for the period of March through December 2025 and asked for members who wanted to participate to contact her or Mr. Carlton.

D. Drinking Water of the Commonwealth Update

Director Gaddis expressed her desire to create an annual retrospective report to the Governor's Office on annual infrastructure investments, highlighting the good work of the Division of Water and giving particular acknowledgement to drinking water infrastructure investments throughout the state, though it would not completely exclude clean water infrastructure investments as well. She stated she would like to include successes and progress from the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (KIA) and Public Water Systems (PWS).

III. Reports

A. Division of Water Updates

i. Director's Office

Director Gaddis acknowledged that December 16, 2024 is the 50th Anniversary of the passage of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and discussed ways that various groups will be celebrating, including highlighting projects in South Shore and City of Marion.

WMB Regionalization Viewer – Joanna Ashford, Watershed Management Branch

DOW Watershed Branch Manager Joanna Ashford and Environmental Scientist Consultant Caroline Chan presented the newly-created and -released online Web Map Viewer for the Regionalization of Public Water Systems that showcases the effects of regionalization and public water system consolidation efforts across Kentucky over time (from the year 2000 to the present).

DOW Branch Reports

DOW Surface Water Permits Branch Manager Jason Hurt gave an update on issuing general permits, coal general permits, and renewals.

DOW Water Infrastructure Branch Manager Hollie Delaney and Director's Office Environmental Engineer Consultant Jory Becker reported that the permit backlog continues to substantially decrease. There was a brief discussion of reviewing engineering agreed enforcement orders for consideration of renewing the orders or conditions. The group was reminded that the call for State Revolving Fund projects ends December 13, 2024 and that those applications should have been coordinated with the respective Area Development Districts (ADDs) at least one month prior to the due date.

DOW Drinking Water Branch Manager Alicia Jacobs stated her branch is working on compliance with the Service Line Inventory and responding to questions from the utilities. She highlighted that Kentucky has one of the highest compliance rates in the nation with the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions at 96% compliance with only one system out of compliance as of this date. It was also reported that initial review of the Service Line Inventory showed 75% compliance.

DOW Field Office Branch Manager Shannon McLeary reported that her two new wastewater PFAS consultants have begun setting up meetings with wastewater systems and that, since August 2024, four of the ten regional office supervisors are new to their positions. Those include Jason Stephens (Columbia), Bruce Hatcher (Bowling Green), Madeline Traylor (Paducah), and Lindsey Bibbee (Madisonville). Bill Baker and Brian Crump have moved to technical assistance.

Environmental Scientist Advisor Dale Booth reported for the Watershed Management Branch that the deadline for letters of intent for the 319 grant just passed but the deadline for applications will be February 14, 2025.

Updates for the Water Quality Branch and Water Resources Branch were not provided.

ii. Committee Reports

The PFAS Committee reported that the usual subgroups are still meeting, including Pilot Testing and Finance workgroups. The new Communications Subgroup started meeting and the full PFAS Committee will have its first full meeting of the year on January 28 at 2:00 pm.

The Operator Recruitment Subgroup discussed providing comments on HB40 and that a letter to the General Assembly is in the Commissioner's Office for review.

The Nutrient Subcommittee reported that it met with the other Nutrient workgroups regarding the new nutrient loads study. A link to this study will be included in the upcoming nutrient newsletter.

The Sourcewater Protection Subcommittee reported that it met in November and is planning to meet again in February. At the November meeting, the group was updated on division outreach and education activities that occurred in September and October for Water Conservation Week and Sourcewater Protection Week. They also received information from Kentucky Rural Water Association (KRWA) on its lead service line inventory assistance and discussed KRWA's Utility Management Institute – a two year program that has recently been revamped and revitalized. New classes will begin in January. Lastly, the subcommittee had an informative presentation on University of Kentucky's Triple Bottom Line Analysis Tool regarding agricultural practices, and video of the meeting was recorded.

Mr. Carlton reported that the 2025 KWUAC Regular Meeting Schedule was in the email sent to all members that included the agenda and virtual link to this meeting and will be posted to the DOW KWUAC website soon.

IV. Other Business

Peter Goodmann mentioned that ASDWA and AWWA have met to discuss and prepare for expected changes to environmental policy with the incoming federal administration.

Mr. Goodmann also stated that the group KYWARN has been reformed and that he was appointed vice-chairman of its interim steering committee. Director Gaddis asked that, once formed, a representative of the committee provide a presentation to KWUAC to showcase the formation and functions of the group.

Richard Harrison mentioned the potential to create a utilities helpline to provide expertise on asset management, hydraulic planning, etc., as well as developing a directory of utilities within the ADDs, and developing a water management plan for water supply and linking KIA, KYDOW, and the ADDs.

V. Comments and Announcements

The group was reminded about the upcoming Water Professionals Conference in Knoxville, TN and that the call for abstracts is due January 16, 2025 for the July conference.

Donna McNeil discussed final approval of a drinking water and wastewater survey in Appalachia, including areas of West Virginia, the Appalachian Regional Commission-funded RISE program, and the planning of an EEC co-funded grant for setting up a training center.

Mr. Carlton announced the 2025 Regular Meeting Schedule for KWUAC as Friday, March 7, 2025 at 10:00 am; Friday, June 13, 2025 at 10:00 am; Friday, September 12, 2025 at 10:00 am; and Friday, December 5, 2025 at 10:00 am. Mr. Goodmann said to check whether June 13 may conflict with another conference.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:10 pm EDT.

These minutes were reviewed by the Committee and approved on March 7, 2025.

/s/ Sarah Gaddis /jhc

Sarah J. Gaddis, P.G., Director
Kentucky Division of Water

3/27/2025

Date